

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 03 MAR 2006

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference K30064PCT | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416) | |
| International application No. PCT/EP 03/11550 | International filing date (day/month/year) 17.10.2003 | Priority date (day/month/year) 17.10.2003 |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC G06F3/023 | | |
| Applicant TERRAMARK MARKENCREATION GMBH et al. | | |

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.
 - ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheets.

- This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the opinion
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

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| Date of submission of the demand 04.05.2005 | Date of completion of this report 27.02.2006 |
| Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - Gitschiner Str. 103 D-10958 Berlin Tel. +49 30 25901 - 0 Fax: +49 30 25901 - 840 | Authorized Officer Durand, J Telephone No. +49 30 25901-421  |

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
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International application No. PCT/EP 03/11550

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17))*):

Description, Pages

1-9 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

2-13 as originally filed
1 received on 13.02.2006 with letter of 13.02.2006

Drawings, Sheets

1 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Novelty (N) | Yes: Claims | 2-10 |
| | No: Claims | 1,11-13 |
| Inventive step (IS) | Yes: Claims | |
| | No: Claims | 1-13 |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | 1-13 |
| | No: Claims | |

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

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Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US-B1-6 292 772 (KANTROWITZ) 18 September 2001
D2: US-A-5 634 134 (KUMAI ET AL.) 27 May 1997*

* refers to a document cited as evidence of the skilled person's general knowledge.

2. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of amended claim 1 is still not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
- 2.1. Document D1 discloses a method for operating an output device and for outputting text data in one of at least two languages with at least partly different character sets by utilizing only one input means for all languages (see in particular column 6, lines 8 to 16) comprising the following steps:
- a) Inputting at least one character by said input means (see in particular column 2, lines 59 to 62) (the input of a single character is covered by the use of unigrams);
 - b) Automatic checking of said at least one character and/or a sequence of characters in one word by utilizing a number of predetermined rules related to the sequence of characters (see in particular column 2, lines 50 to 56 and column 5, lines 53 to 54) (as a n-gram is a sequence of characters);
 - c) Automatic outputting of said character or sequence of characters with a first character set of a first language, if the sequence is allowed in said first language according to said predetermined rules (see in particular column 2, lines 29 to 39);
 - d) Automatic outputting of said character or sequence of characters with a second character set of a second language, if the sequence is not allowed in said first language according to said predetermined rules (see in particular column 5, lines 22 to 31).

Hence D1 discloses in combination all features of claim 1. Consequently, the subject-matter of this claim is not new.

- 2.2. In his letter of reply (see page 2, paragraph 2), the applicant argued that D1 does not recognises the languages of individual words, but parses a whole document, in contrary to amended claim 1. However, the present application is not directed to the recognition of the language of a *single* word, but to the recognition of individual words within a document (see the description, page 3, paragraph 2). Moreover, it is noted that claim 1 is not directed to recognising the language of a *single* word, but to recognising the language of (at least) one word. Hence, this argument is not relevant.

Moreover, the applicant argued that the present application is novel with respect to D2 and inventive with respect to D1 and D2. However, the objection which was actually done is one of novelty with respect to D1. Hence, this argument is irrelevant either.

3. Dependent claims 2-13 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT)
- 3.1. The additional features of claims 2 and 3 are known from D2 (see in particular figure 7, 8, column 18, lines 1 to 5, column 18, line 50 to column 19, line 3) which also deals with multilingual input and describes known options for switching from one language to another after analysis of a string of characters; the skilled man would make use of it as they are alternative solutions to the problem of language switching. It should be noticed that the same solution is known in the field of automatic page description language switching in printers.
- 3.2. The additional features of claims 4-10 are merely a design options which are widely know per se and perform their usual functions, without interacting to produce an unexpected technical effect.
- 3.3. The subject matter of claims 11-13 is not new as any computer with an input keyboard, an output display and/or printer, a storage device and a processor is

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suitable for performing the claimed method.

4. Because of the reasons stated in sections 2 and 3 above, claims 1 to 13 are not allowable. In view of the available prior art, it does not appear that any part of the application could serve as a basis for a new allowable claim.

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Amended claim 1

1. Method for operating an output device and for outputting text data in one of at least two languages with at least partly different character sets by utilizing only one input means for all languages comprising the following steps:
 - a) Inputting at least one character by said input means;
 - b) Automatic checking of said at least one character and/or a sequence of characters in one word by utilizing a number of predetermined rules related to the sequence of characters;
 - c) Automatic outputting of said character or sequence of characters with a first character set of a first language, if the sequence is allowed in said first language according to said predetermined rules;
 - d) Automatic outputting of said character or sequence of characters with a second character set of a second language, if the sequence is not allowed in said first language according to said predetermined rules.